



Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2015–2016



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What’s New in 2015–2016?

- Changes have been made to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold. See Page 11.
- The cost of a Federal Duck Stamp has increased from \$15 to \$25. See Page 12.
- The free MO Hunting app now allows hunters to carry their hunting permits afield on an Apple or Android mobile device. See Page 12.
- You may now harvest two canvasbacks daily. See the back cover for season dates and daily bag limits.
- You now have more days to hunt white-fronted geese. See the back cover for season dates and daily bag limits.



Waterfowl Hunting Outlook

The good news for the 2015–2016 season is that duck populations are at an all-time high, and Canada and snow goose populations remain robust. Hunters should keep in mind, however, that waterfowl hunting in Missouri is influenced by habitat conditions, weather, and the timing of migrations more than duck and goose numbers.

Wetlands should have plenty of water this fall, but repeated flooding throughout the summer likely will result in fewer acres of flooded crops and patchy wild foods for waterfowl. Weather forecasters are predicting a strong El Niño for this fall and winter, which could bring warm, mild weather to the upper Midwest.

Both of these factors will make flexibility a key to a successful hunt. Hunters should be willing to try new locations if traditional locations offer poor habitat. If mild temperatures prevail, hunters will be more successful when they time their hunts to coincide with the passage of cold fronts and duck migrations.

Regardless of weather and habitat conditions, hunters should take time to enjoy their outings. We are living in unprecedented times with record duck and goose populations, a string of nearly 20 years of 60-day duck seasons, and goose seasons lasting longer than we have ever seen.

Status of Habitat on the Breeding Grounds

Wetland numbers in the north-central United States and Canadian prairies were 12 percent below 2014 estimates but still 21 percent above the long-term average. In general, the reduction in habitat was due to average or below-average precipitation.

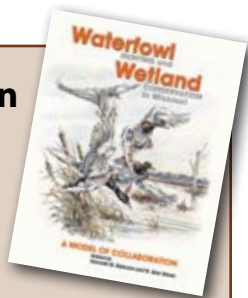
Duck Status

This year's estimate of 49.5 million ducks represents a record high and is 43 percent above the long-term average.

- Mallard numbers are similar to 2014 and 42 percent above their long-term average.
- Blue-winged teal numbers are similar to 2014 and 73 percent above their long-term average. Green-winged teal numbers increased by 19 percent, which puts them 98 percent above their long-term average.
- Northern shoveler numbers dropped by 17 percent but remain 75 percent above their long-term average.
- Gadwall and American wigeon numbers are similar to 2014 and 100 and 17 percent above their long-term averages, respectively.
- Redhead numbers are similar to 2014 and 71 percent above their long-term average.
- Canvasback numbers increased slightly, which puts them 30 percent above their long-term average.
- Scaup numbers are similar to 2014 and 13 percent below their long-term average.
- Pintail numbers are similar to 2014 and 24 percent below their long-term average.

Book Supports Wetland Conservation

The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland conservation is not an accident. Skillful execution of well-designed plans, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support, and dedicated funding have led to the quality wetland habitats and migratory bird populations we enjoy today. A new book, *Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri — A Model of Collaboration*, chronicles this success. The authors, many of them former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers, have donated their services to produce the book. Sponsors — anchored by Bass Pro Shops, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and private citizens — have covered production costs. All proceeds from sales will be dedicated to wetland and waterfowl conservation. The book is available at mdcnatureshop.com or toll free at 877-521-8632. For additional details, visit mochf.org.





Canada geese

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Canada Goose Status

Canada goose hunters in Missouri depend on Canada geese from three regions.

- Southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa contribute the majority of geese to Missouri's goose harvest. The 2015 breeding population in this region was 449,000.
- Northern Manitoba is where Eastern Prairie Population Canada geese nest along the coast of Hudson Bay. This population is the next largest contributor to Missouri's goose harvest. Their breeding population stood at 142,900 in 2015.
- Missouri's resident Canada geese comprise about 30 percent of the Missouri harvest. The most recent Missouri Canada goose survey, which was conducted in spring of 2014, indicated a breeding population of 69,500.

Production was good in all three regions, so there should be more young birds than in the past few years. Ultimately, the number of geese present during the hunting season will depend on weather conditions to the north. The largest numbers of Canada geese arrive in Missouri when winter conditions are most severe.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at mdc.mo.gov/node/16861.



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2015–2016 Duck Season Date Formulas

Missouri's duck season opening dates are currently set according to the formulas listed in the table below. These formulas provide a compromise among hunters who prefer earlier or later seasons by allowing season timing to vary by about a week over a six-year period. Last year, opening dates favored hunters who prefer earlier seasons. This year, opening dates will favor hunters who prefer later seasons, as the North and Middle Zones will open a week later than last year.

Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	Last Saturday in October	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November
Middle	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November	3rd Saturday in November
South	Thanksgiving Day	1st Saturday in December	2nd Saturday in December

Adaptive Harvest Management

Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days), and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to: flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management.

Department Considers Zone Boundaries and Season Dates for 2017–2020

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers states the opportunity to change the number and location of duck zones every five years. States also can select a continuous season or split season at this time. Once selections are made, Missouri keeps the same season date formulas for the next five years. As hunters know, hunting conditions can vary tremendously from one year to the next. During some years, the best hunting can occur early in the season; during other years, it can occur late. Limiting changes to every five years helps the Department evaluate the effectiveness of zone boundaries and season dates over a range of conditions.

Department Seeks Input on Season Dates and Zone Boundaries

Hunters can weigh in on zone boundaries and season dates for 2017–2020 at 13 workshops held around the state in February and March 2016 (see table below). Before attending a workshop, hunters are encouraged to review information compiled by Department biologists on migration, harvest, weather, and hunter preferences for each region of the state. This information will be posted by February at on.mo.gov/1giLHme. Any changes that result from this process will go into effect in 2017.

Season Dates/Duck Zones Public Workshops (7–9 p.m.)		
Town	Date	Workshop Location
Blue Springs	March 9	Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Carrollton	Feb. 4	Carrollton Public Library
Columbia	Feb. 10	Riechmann Pavilion, Stephen's Lake Park
Dexter	Feb. 17	National Guard Armory
Hannibal	Feb. 1	Homebank
Harrisonville	March 8	Cass County Sheriff's Office Training Room
Jackson	Feb. 18	Knights of Columbus Hall
Joplin	March 2	Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center
Kennett	Feb. 16	National Guard Armory
Kirkwood	Feb. 11	Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Nevada	March 3	Nevada Community Center
Springfield	March 1	Springfield Conservation Nature Center
St. Joseph	Feb. 3	Missouri Department of Conservation Northwest Regional Office

Waterfowl Seasons to be Announced Earlier Beginning in 2016

Hunters will no longer have to wait until late summer to begin making plans for waterfowl season. Thanks to a new regulation process adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Conservation Department will be able to set waterfowl season dates and bag limits in early spring. The Department also will be able to set regulations for all migratory birds at the same time, including waterfowl, teal, doves, rails, and woodcock.

The major difference between the old and new process is that regulations will now be based on waterfowl numbers and habitat status from the previous year rather than the current year. This change will give the Fish and Wildlife Service months instead of weeks to solicit public comment on waterfowl regulations, will streamline the regulation process in many states, and will offer hunters more time to plan their waterfowl outings. The change is not anticipated to affect the frequency of liberal, moderate, or restrictive seasons.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these invasive animals:



- Disrupt native aquatic animals and communities.
- Clog the cooling systems of boat motors, causing them to overheat.
- Plug intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- Ruin beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- Spread quickly — a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

When moving from one water body to another:

- **Clean** all plants, animals, and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat and gear in hot water, especially crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** all water from your boat, decoys, and equipment before leaving the water body.
- **Dry** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.

Report sightings to Aquatic Habitat Specialist, 412 S. Killingsworth, Bolivar, MO 65613-1872. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

Avian Flu Information

Since December 2014, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5 viruses have affected more than 48 million birds in the United States, with most cases occurring in domestic poultry. The risk to people from HPAI infections in wild birds is low. In Missouri, this disease has been found in both domestic poultry operations and wild birds.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is working with federal and state agencies to monitor waterfowl for HPAI viruses. These efforts will include sampling hunter-harvested waterfowl during hunting seasons.

For more information, contact the Conservation Department's Wildlife Health Program at 573-815-7900 or visit the following websites:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth
- U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center: www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/

Proper Handling of Game Birds

Practice good hygiene when handling or cleaning wild birds. Here are some recommended practices:

- Do not handle or eat birds that are obviously sick or birds that were found dead. Contact your local conservation agent or Conservation Department office if you find sick or dead birds. For contact information, see Page 30 of this booklet or visit mdc.mo.gov.
- Work in a well-ventilated area or upwind of harvested game birds to minimize exposure to airborne particles from dust, feathers, or dander.
- Wear rubber gloves when handling birds.
- Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based disinfectant and disinfect tools and equipment after handling birds.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling birds.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
- Cook game birds to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever or other flu-like symptoms and let them know that you have had recent contact with wild birds.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess, and transport ducks, coots, and geese in Missouri, except during the Light Goose Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and Federal Duck Stamp are required (see below).

2) Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older

This permit is available for \$6. It satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) Federal Duck Stamp is required of:

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older

New! The cost of a Federal Duck Stamp has gone from \$15 to \$25. See Page 11 for important information about duck stamps.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits in Missouri to hunt ducks, coots, or geese during the regular season or light geese during the Conservation Order, but they must:

- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or possess a valid hunter-education card.

Note: During the Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, youth hunters must be in the immediate presence of an adult. See Page 14.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved hunter-education course and display their card before purchasing any firearms hunting permits unless permits are purchased using an Apprentice Hunter Authorization (see Page 13).

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri hunting permits:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime using the e-Permits System at **mdc.mo.gov/epermits**. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.
- **New!** From your smartphone using the free MO Hunting app. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Your valid permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$2 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Note: Hunting permits will no longer be sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.

Where to Purchase Duck Stamps

Several changes were implemented last year to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold. Plan ahead to avoid being caught by surprise.

- Duck stamps are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.
- Many permit vendors, such as hunting equipment retailers, no longer sell paper duck stamps. All vendors offer e-Stamps (see below).
- You may now buy duck stamps online at **www.mo.wildlifelicenses.com** or through the MO Hunting app (see Page 12). An electronic duck stamp, or e-Stamp, will be issued to you, and a paper duck stamp will be mailed to you. The e-Stamp may be used immediately and is valid for 45 days. After 45 days, you must carry the paper duck stamp that is mailed to you. E-Stamps may be purchased from your home computer for \$28.50, which includes a \$3.50 handling fee. A \$1 Internet convenience fee will also be added to your total online order. E-Stamps also may be purchased from retail permit vendors where the \$1 Internet convenience fee will not apply.
- Traditional (paper) duck stamps may be purchased for \$25 at some U.S. Post Offices and Conservation Department offices. Please call the office before you visit to ask if duck stamps are available.

Dollars for Ducks: Federal Duck Stamp Price Increases

New! The cost of a Federal Duck Stamp has gone from \$15 to \$25, the first price increase in more than 20 years. Many hunting and conservation groups have been asking for a higher priced duck stamp for more than a decade. This is because 98 cents of every dollar generated by duck stamp sales goes directly to purchasing or leasing wetland habitat. Since 1934, duck stamp funds have been used to acquire more than 6 million acres of wetland habitat, providing homes for countless wildlife species and places for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. The \$10 increase will help protect an estimated 17,000 additional acres of habitat every year.

MDC's MO Hunting App Makes Permits Easy

You now have a quick, easy, and convenient new option for carrying your permits afield.

The Conservation Department's popular MO Hunting app is now even better. The free app, which is available for Apple and Android mobile devices, was updated in July. Combined with its previous functionality, the updated app will allow you to:

- Purchase permits and duck stamps through the app.
- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased — even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor, online, or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield. **Note:** The MO Hunting app will display your purchase of a federal duck stamp, but you must carry a paper duck stamp afield after your 45-day temporary authorization has expired. See Page 11.

To log into MO Hunting, you'll need your Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on the back of your Heritage Card next to the bar code or on any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-751-4115 during regular business hours and ask for the Permits Office, or go to **mdc.mo.gov/node/5127**.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and iTunes stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at **mdc.mo.gov/mobile/mobile-apps**.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing such assignment while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status, such as a student ID, while hunting.
Note: Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- First purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization;
- Then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult who has a valid hunter-education certificate card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Daily Bag Limits

See back cover for season dates and shooting hours.

Coots	15 daily and 45 in possession
Ducks 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:	
Mallards	4, but no more than 2 females
Scaup	3
Wood ducks	3
New! Canvasbacks	2
Hooded mergansers.	2
Pintails	2
Redheads	2
Black ducks	1
Mottled ducks	1
The possession limit for ducks is 18 (three times the daily bag limit; varies by species.)	

Geese	
Snow, blue, and Ross's (all species combined)	20
Canada and brant (both species combined)	3
White-fronted.	2
The possession limits for brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese are three times the daily bag limit (varies by species). There is no possession limit for snow, blue, and Ross's geese.	

Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days

In 2015, there are two Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days in each zone for ducks, geese, and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- Age 15 or younger;
- Accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks during Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-education certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-education certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and the adult must possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

See back cover for season dates. Shooting hours and limits are the same as during the regular duck, goose, and coot seasons.



Light Goose Conservation Order

A Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 1–April 30, 2016. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because the geese have increased in number and are causing damage to the fragile arctic tundra. During the Conservation Order there is no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older only need a Conservation Order Permit to hunt snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit. See Page 10 for permit requirements for hunters age 15 and younger.

Note: A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Federal Duck Stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- Sept. 12–27, 2015, statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset
- During youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for the dates of each zone) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset
- Feb. 11–March 10, 2016, statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

The **daily bag limit** shall not exceed 3 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate. The **possession limit** shall not exceed 9 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate.

Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18 and 19. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds. There are four ways to obtain a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation at 12 conservation areas. A reservation guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18.
- Missouri residents may use the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. Quick Draw provides hunters the option of applying twice a week, once for hunts occurring Friday through Monday, and once for hunts occurring Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw begins accepting applications a week before the opening of waterfowl season. Hunters who apply and are drawn using Quick Draw receive a guaranteed position in line for their hunt. To learn more, visit mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw.
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and draw for a spot in the morning drawing or “poor line.” Twenty-five percent of the positions at Quick Draw areas and 50 percent of the positions at the remaining areas are set aside for daily poor-line drawings. The positions of reservation holders and Quick Draw hunters who do not show up are also included in the poor-line drawing.

To view a series of videos that offer additional details about these procedures, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/3718.

Hunters may reserve disabled-accessible blinds using the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. On all other areas, hunters must call the area to reserve a disabled-accessible blind. When arriving at an area to claim a blind, hunters must show a Hunting Method Exemption or Department of Revenue hangtag. For additional information, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/9631.

Report Your Bands to reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates, and distributions for a variety of migratory game birds. To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at reportband.gov or call 800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



How the Morning Drawing Works

Hunters who are using the poor line to draw for a hunting spot will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team up with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

Areas not using EMD use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party’s place in line. Areas that use OMD generally turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

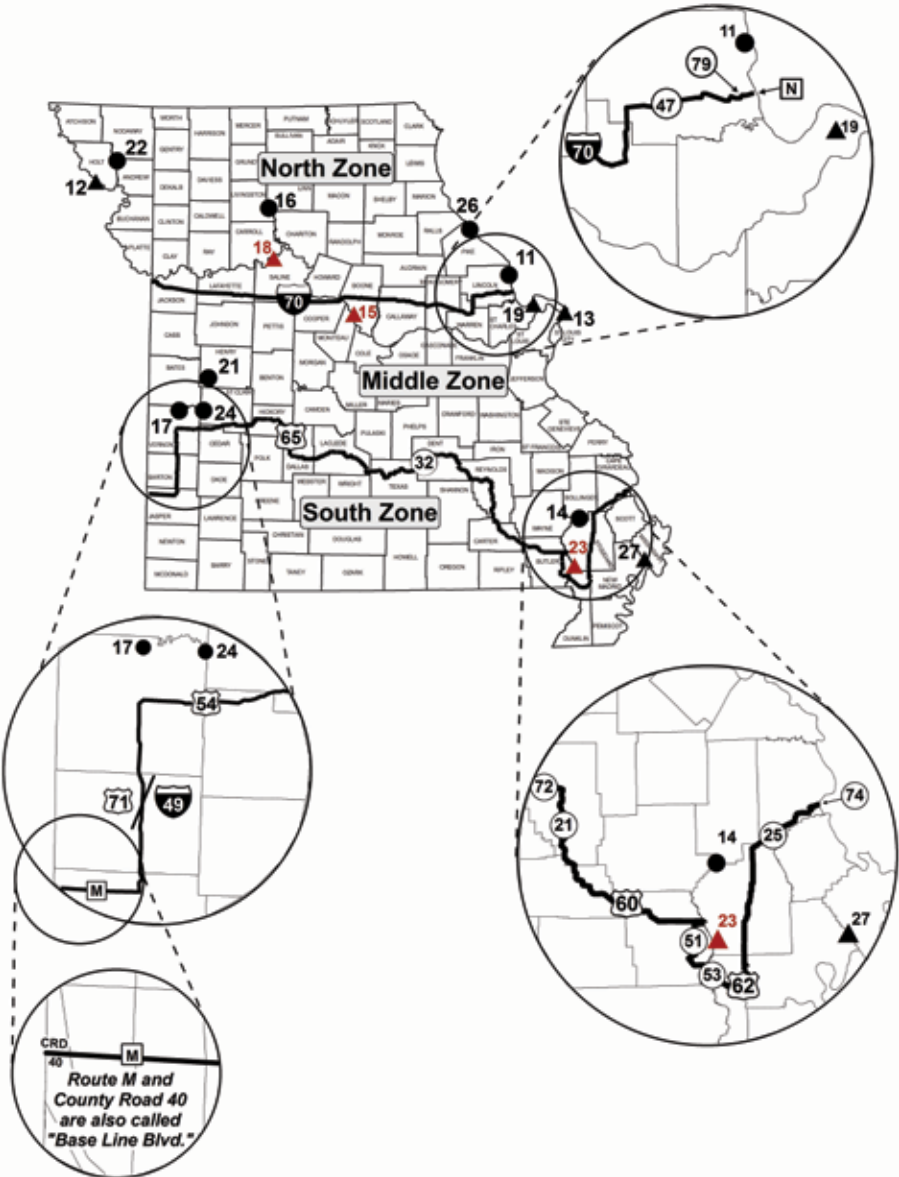
After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are assigned. On some days, there may be more hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week, and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to **mdc.mo.gov/node/9619**.

Hunting Zones and Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

For a listing of the roads that define zone boundaries, see the migratory game birds and waterfowl section in Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.



Areas denoted in red use Quick Draw (mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw).

- 11 B. K. Leach CA** (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract off Norton Woods Road.
- 12 Bob Brown CA ▲** (3,307 acres; Holt County) 660-446-2694. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲** (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 14 Duck Creek CA** (6,318 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Walk-in hunting; water blinds in timber pools; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for timber blinds only; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Water availability may cause a delay in flooding Timber Pools 2, 3, and 8.
- 15 Eagle Bluffs CA ▲** (4,428 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 16 Fountain Grove CA** (7,154 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 17 Four Rivers CA** (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps in most pools; camping; open all day.
- 18 Grand Pass CA ▲** (5,301 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲** (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.
- 21 Montrose CA** (2,750 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; open all day.
- 22 Nodaway Valley CA** (3,881 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; 4 water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramps in most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure on west side; all-day hunting on east side.
- 23 Otter Slough CA ▲** (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 24 Schell-Osage CA** (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 26 Ted Shanks CA** (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲** (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; open all day.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit [ecfr.gov](https://www.ecfr.gov), where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting

from a blind or other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural vegetation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain. Normal agricultural practices must be conducted in accordance with recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Cooperative Extension Service. A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing a crop. Waterfowl may not be hunted over freshly planted wildlife food plots where grain or seed has been distributed, scattered, or exposed because these plots are not normal agricultural plantings or normal soil stabilization practices.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON: No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another

person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess, or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of August 2015, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Bismuth-tin | ■ Tungsten-iron-polymer |
| ■ Copper-clad iron | ■ Tungsten-matrix |
| ■ Iron (steel) | ■ Tungsten-polymer |
| ■ Iron-tungsten | ■ Tungsten-tin-bismuth |
| ■ Iron-tungsten-nickel | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron |
| ■ Tungsten-bronze (two types) | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel |
| ■ Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel | |

Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl

Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel* 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3–4 steel 4–6 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2–3 steel 4 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1–BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB–BBB steel 1–BB bismuth 2–BB tungsten alloy	50

Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.

***Note:** Small shot (#6) is an excellent choice for finishing wounded waterfowl at close range.

When Hunting From a Boat

- If you are using a boat with a motor, including a layout boat, special state statutes apply. For details, visit mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/WaterPatrol.
- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Transport firearms unloaded, cased, and with the action open.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.

If your boat swamps or capsizes:

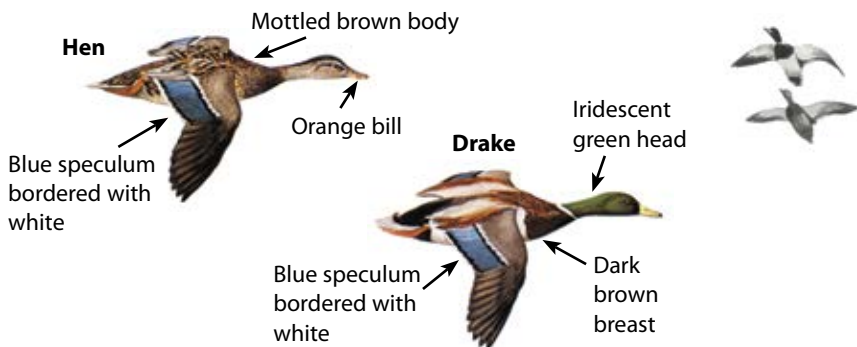
- Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- To help you stay afloat, place an oar under your knees and another behind your back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Duck Identification

The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:

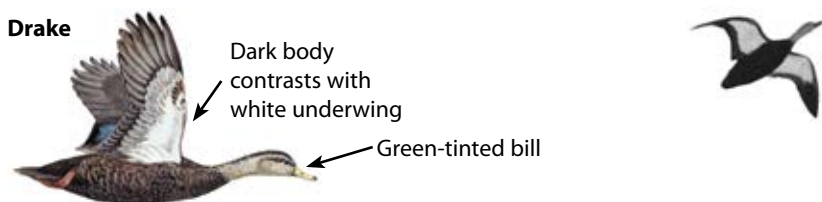
Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



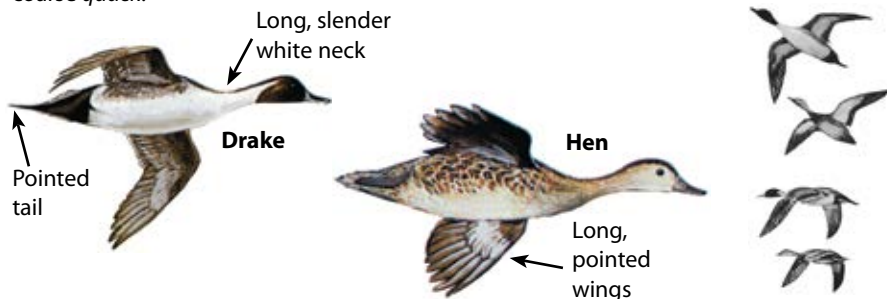
American Black Duck ■ 1 in the daily bag

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice, and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



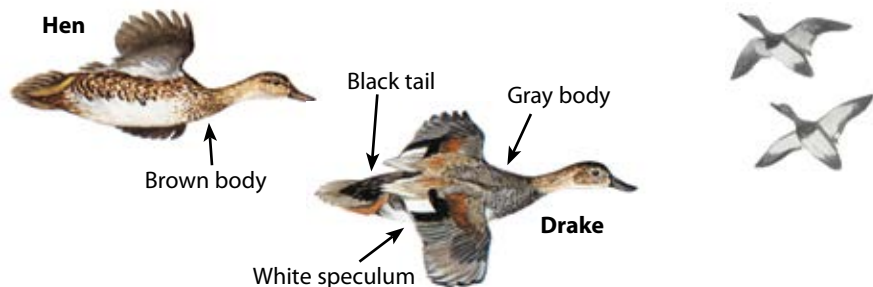
Northern Pintail ■ 2 in the daily bag

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



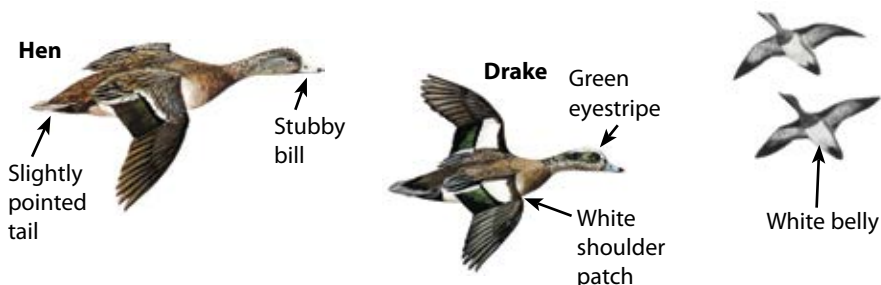
Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



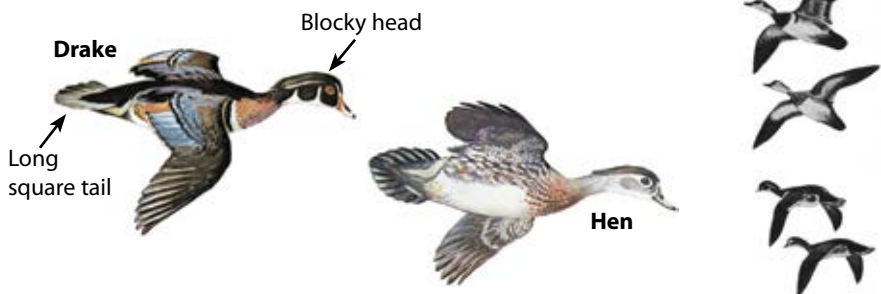
American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

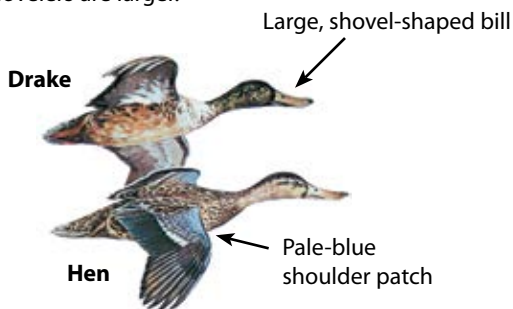
The drake wood duck is Missouri's most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.



Duck Identification

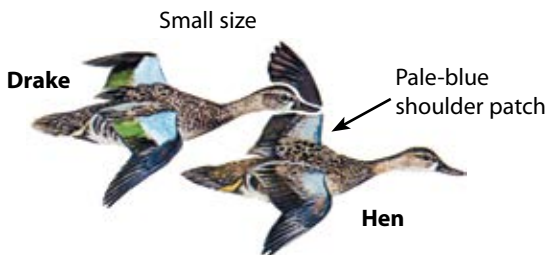
Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



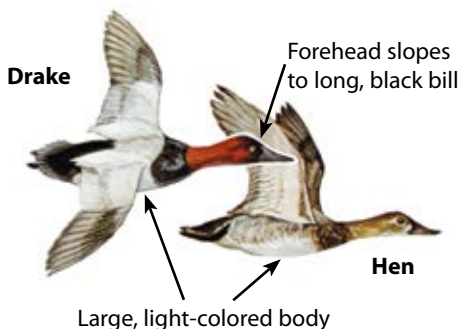
Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight, and iridescent-green wing patches help identify these ducks.



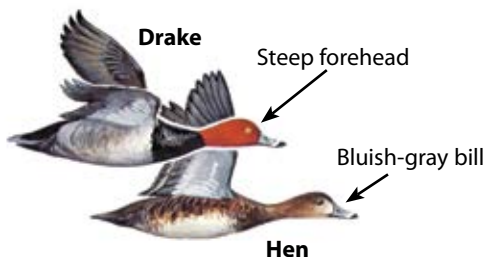
Canvasback ■ 2 in the daily bag

The swiftest of all ducks, the canvasback has a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration, and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.

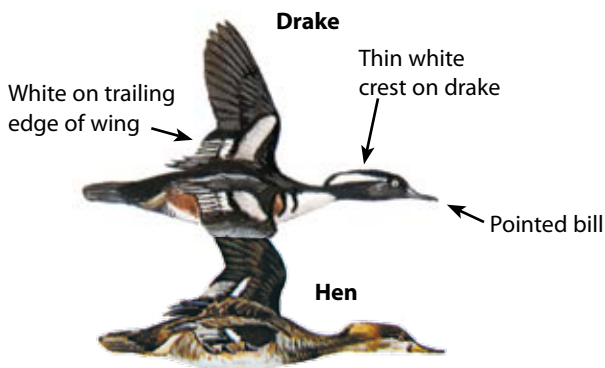


Smaller than canvasback



Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

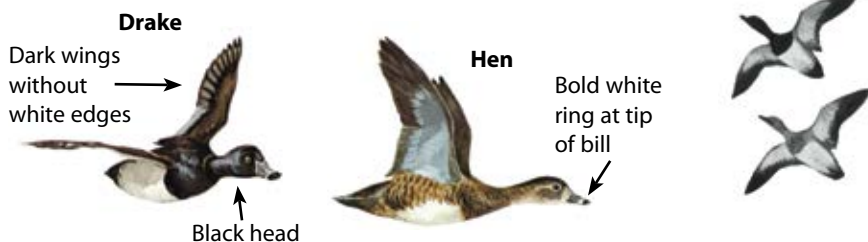
The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



Duck Identification

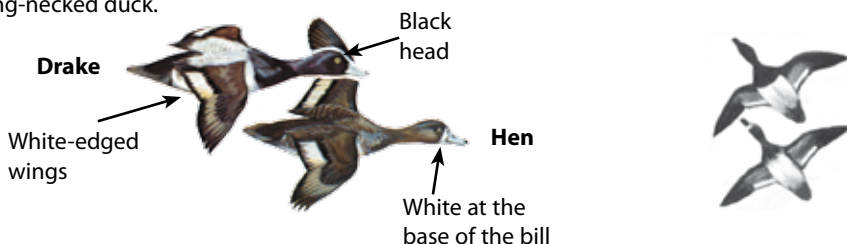
Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 3 in the daily bag

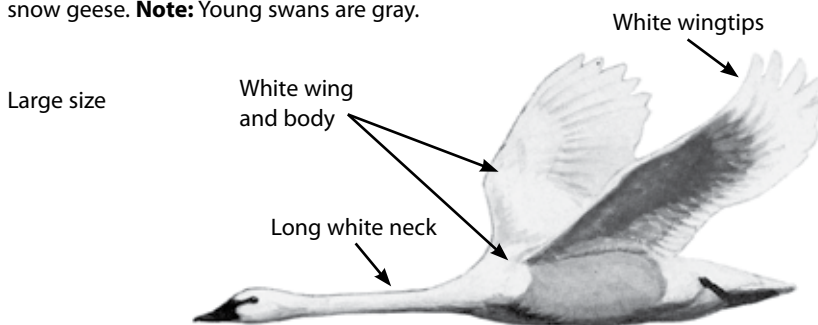
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!

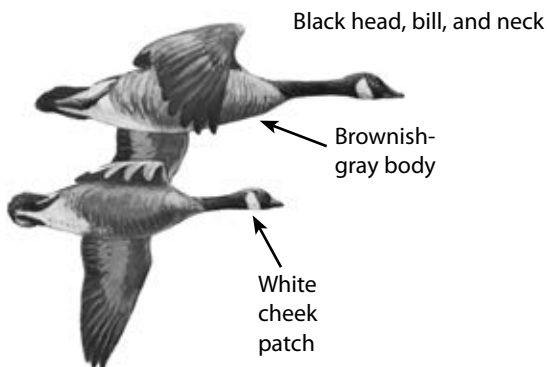
Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.



Goose Identification

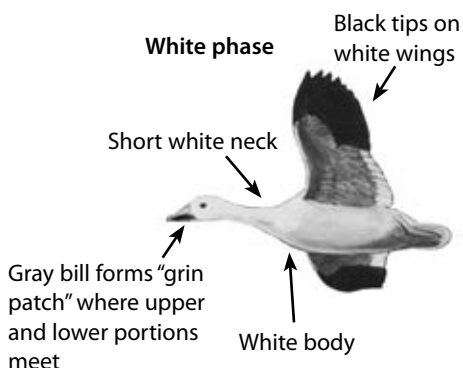
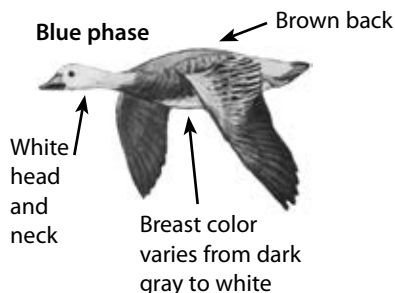
Canada Goose ■ 3 in the daily bag

Canada geese are often called “honkers” because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch, and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



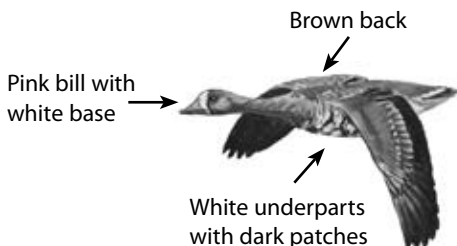
Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ 20 in the daily bag

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no “grin patch.”



White-Fronted Goose ■ 2 in the daily bag

White-fronted geese, or “speckle-bellies,” fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs, and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs, and white tails.





Director,
Department of Conservation
 Robert L. Ziehmer

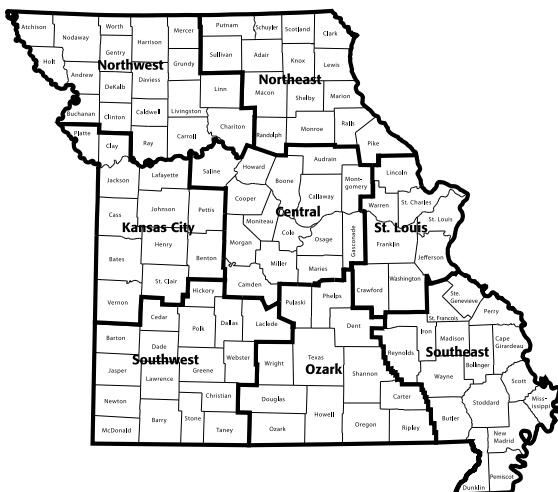
The Conservation Commission

Don C. Bedell
 James T. Blair, IV
 Marilynn J. Bradford
 David W. Murphy

**Missouri Department of
 Conservation**
 PO Box 180
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
 573-751-4115
 mdc.mo.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contact Information



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

DAY	OCT. 2015		NOV. 2015		DEC. 2015		JAN. 2016	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	7:04	6:52	6:35	5:09	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:58
2	7:05	6:50	6:36	5:08	7:08	4:48	7:26	4:59
3	7:06	6:49	6:37	5:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00
4	7:07	6:47	6:38	5:06	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:01
5	7:08	6:46	6:39	5:05	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:01
6	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:04	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:02
7	7:10	6:43	6:42	5:03	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:03
8	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:04
9	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:48	7:26	5:05
10	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06
11	7:14	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07
12	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08
13	7:16	6:34	6:48	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:26	5:09
14	7:17	6:32	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10
15	7:18	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:11
16	7:19	6:29	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:25	5:12
17	7:20	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:13
18	7:21	6:27	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:14
19	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16
20	7:23	6:24	6:56	4:52	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:17
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25	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:22
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27	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:25
28	7:31	6:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:26
29	7:32	6:12	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27
30	7:33	6:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:28
31	7:34	6:10			7:26	4:57	7:15	5:29

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1–31 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: **www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications**.

2015–2016 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks and Coots	Canada Geese and Brant	White-fronted Geese	Light Geese (snow, blue, Ross's)*
North	Oct. 24–25	Oct. 31–Dec. 29	Oct. 3–11 <i>and</i> Nov. 26–Jan. 31	New! Longer season Nov. 7–Jan. 31	Oct. 31–Jan. 31
Middle	Oct. 31–Nov. 1	Nov. 7–Jan. 5			
South	Nov. 21–22	Nov. 26–Jan. 24			

*The **Light Goose Conservation Order** will be in effect from **Feb. 1 through April 30, 2016**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt. See Page 15 for details.

Shooting Hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag Limits

Coots

15 coots daily

Ducks

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:
4 mallards
(no more than 2 females)

3 scaup

3 wood ducks

New! 2 canvasbacks

2 hooded mergansers

2 pintails

2 redheads

1 black duck

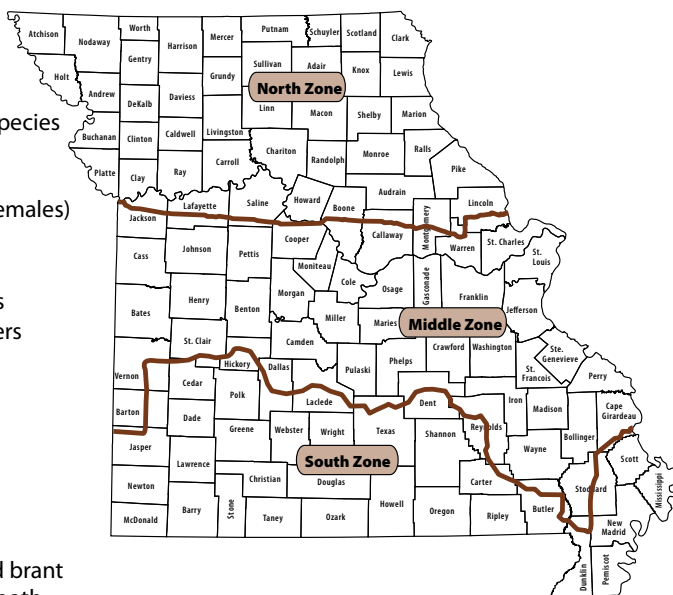
1 mottled duck

Geese

20 light geese

3 Canada geese and brant
(combined total of both species)

2 white-fronted geese



For permit information, see pages 10–13.

Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit for ducks, coots, brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese. Light geese have no possession limit.